

Amendment to the Specification

Please replace the sentence at lines 3-4 of the specification with the following amended sentence:

This application is a continuation-in-part of application Serial Number 09/656,318, filed on September 6, 2000, now abandoned.

Please replace the first full paragraph at page 6, beginning at line 4, with the following paragraph:

This invention is directed to a method of preserving colloid-stabilized polymer emulsions against biodeteriogenic microbe attack and spoilage using selected cationic compounds. It is also directed to compositions containing colloid-stabilized polymer emulsions and cationic compounds that are resistant to spoilage by biodeteriogenic microbes. A method for preventing biodeteriogenic microbe contamination in protective colloid-stabilized polymer emulsions involves mixing an effective amount of the cationic compound with the polymer emulsion. Examples of specific cationic compounds that are particularly effective in preserving polymer emulsions that have been stabilized with protective colloids, such as poly(vinyl alcohol), against biodeteriogenic microbes are: substituted pyridinium salts, substituted guanidine salts, tetrasubstituted ammonium salts, and polymeric cationic compounds, in which the substitution can be an alkyl, a cycloalkyl, and/or an aryl group of 2 to 18 carbons. The cationic compounds are also particularly effective in preserving polymer emulsions with low VOC's (i.e. less than 1000 ppm VOC).